SOC. ANTIQVAR. LOND.

By the King.

A Proclamation for Farthing Tokens.

WHereas there hath bene in times paſt ſome toleration in this our Realme, of Tokens of lead commonly knowne by the name of Farthing Tokens, to paſſe betweene Vintners, Tapſters, Chaundlers, Bakers, and other the like Tradeſmen, and their Cuſtomers, whereby ſuch ſmall portions, and quantities of things vendible, as the neceſſitie, and vſe ſpecially of the poorer ſort of people, doeth oftentimes require, may be conueniently bought, and ſold without enforcing men to buy more ware then will ſerue for their vſe and occaſions: Foraſmuch therefore as the vſe of Farthing Tokens hath in it ſelfe a good end, tending to parſimonie, and to the auoyding of waſt in petrie contracts, and penne worths; In which reſpect it cannot be but a great comfort to the poorer ſort of people; And yet neuertheleſſe, the maner of iſſuing and vſe of theſe Tokens, as it paſſeth now onely betweene Cuſtomers, doeth neither that good to the publique, which may by a more generall, and indifferent vſe and paſſage of them be effected: And beſides, euen amongſt thoſe particulers betweene whom they paſſe, is more ſubiect to counterfeiting, loſſe, and deceit: Becauſe ſometimes they are refuſed as doubtfull things, and ſometimes by the death or remoouc of thoſe that giue them, are loſt, and diſcredited; The vſe, and paſſage of them being likewiſe ſome derogation to Our Prerogatiue Royall, if it be permitted, That any thing whatſoeuer currant, or not currant, ſhould be made a Meaſure of Buying and Selling in any maner of ſimilitude to the vſe of Our Moneys: We haue thought good (to the end there may be the greater vſe, and the leſſe abuſe in the paſſing of Farthing Tokens) not to ſuffer any longer ſuch inconuenient, and licentious vſe of them, but to giue meanes to Our Subiects to continue the good, which is in the vſe of them, with ſuch directions, and cautions, as may reſtraine and auoyd the abuſe; And therefore haue giuen power and authoritie to Our truſtie, and right Welbeloued IOHN Lord Harington Baron of Exton, and to his Executours Adminiſtratours, Deputies, and Aſſignes, by Our Letters Patents in that behalfe granted, to make, or cauſe to be made ſuch a competent quantitie of Farthing Tokens of Copper, as may be conueniently iſſued amongſt Our louing Subiects within Our Realmes of England, and Ireland, and Our Dominion of Wales, during the terme in Our Letters Patents mentioned: Not intending neuertheleſſe thereby to make them Moneyes, or Coyne, ſo that any of Our Subiects ſhould be forced to receiue them in payments, otherwiſe then with their owne good liking: but onely to giue Our louing Subiects a Licence and meanes to vſe them, according to their occaſions, and that without any Fee charge or conſtraint in any wiſe impoſed vpon them.

And we further Will and command, That the said Farthing Tokens shall be made exactly, and artificially of Copper by Engins, and instruments, hauing on the one side two Scepters crossing vnder one Diademe, and on the other side a Harpe crowned, With our Title, Iacobus Dei gratia Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Rex: With a priuie Marke to bee set vpon them from time to time, Whereby to discerne and distinguish them, to be altered according to occasion, for preuenting of falsifying and counterfeiting of the same; Which Farthing Tokens may passe between man and man for the value of Farthings Within our said Realms, and Dominions, With the liking and consent of such our louing Subiects, as shall require or agree to haue, vse, or receiue the same:

And therefore We doe by these presents aswell publish our Royall Will and pleasure, That such our Farthing Tokens of Copper may passe amongst our Subiects, (as aforesaid) as also straitly prohibite, and forbid all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, not onely to forbeare from, and after the feast of the Natiuitie of S. John Baptist next following the date of this our Proclamation, to vse, deliuer, or receiue any such Leaden Tokens, as haue formerly been tolerated by abuse, but also to make, or counterfeit such Our Farthing Tokens of Copper, or the Engins or Instruments whereby they shall be made, or any of them, being made for the making of any Farthing Tokens, or to vse, or vtter any other Farthing Tokens whatsoeuer, either made, or counterfeited Within Our Realmes or Dominions, or in the parts beyond the Seas, vpon such Paines, Penalties, and Imprisonments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme of England, and Our Prerogatiue Royall can, or may be inflicted vpon them for their contempt, and breach of Our Commandement Royall in this behalfe. And for the better distributing and dispersing of our said Farthing Tokens for the vse of Our Subiects, in maner and forme before expressed. Wee haue Willed and commanded the said Lord Harington, (Who hath likewise agreed, and vndertaken for him, and his Deputies accordingly, and put in sufficient securitie vnto vs to performe the same) to deliuer foorth the rate of one and twenty shillings in Farthing Tokens for euery twenty shillings in Moneys sterling, which any of our louing Subiects shall giue for the same: and likewise for and during the space of one yeere, vntill the said Farthing Tokens be growen vnto a more generall vse, & may be well dispersed Within our said Realmes and dominions, to deliuer vnto any Our louing Subiects, that shall finde himselfe surcharged with more of Our Farthing Tokens then he can conueniently vtter for his vse and occasions, the summe of twentie shillings in Sterling moneys, for euery summe of one and twenty shillings in Farthing Tokens, and after that rate for lesser summes, where any Tradesman shall require the same: Straitly charging and commanding all and singular Maiors, Sheriffes, Constables, Headboroughs, Comptrollers, Customers, Searchers, Waiters, and all other Officers, and Ministers to whom it shall, or may appertaine, to bee Carefull, and diligent in ayding, and assisting the said Lord Harington, his Executors, Administrators, Deputies, and Assignes by all lawfull, and conuenient meanes, to see the due execution of this our Proclamation; aswell in the restraining and suppressing of the sayd Leaden Tokens formerly vsed, as in the searching, seizing, and finding out of any counterfeit Farthing Tokens, made within our said Realmes and Dominions, or any the parts beyond the Seas, or the Engines whereby they were made, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such paines and punishments, as by the Lawes, and Statutes of this Our Realme of England, and Our Prerogatiue Royall may, or can be inflicted vpon them for their contempt in that behalfe.

Giuen at White-Hall the nineteenth day of May, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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